System (TPDS) to provide essential commodities such as foodgrains (rice, wheat, coarse grains) and sugar to poor families in the country at subsidized issue prices. Under it, foodgrains @ 35 kg per family per month are allocated to State and UT Governments for 6.52 crore BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and March, 2000 population estimates of Registrar General of India. Sugar is allocated to State and UT Governments for BPL families @ 500 grams per person except in North-Eastern States, hilly States and Island territories where allocation is made @ 700 grams per person for BPL as well as APL families.

Government also proposes to enact the National Food Security Act under which every BPL family will be entitled to receive 25 kg of foodgrains per month. Details of eligible BPL families to be covered, methodology for their identification, issuance of Targeted Identification Cards to them, food subsidy required, foodgrains required for allocations, convergence of schemes of various Ministries, etc. are being worked out in consultation with different stake holders.

Rail connectivity in Assam

*418. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for rail connectivity to Tikrikilla, Phulbari, Betasing, Dalu and Tura (Garo Hills) from Goalpara-Jogigopa Axis (Assam);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Survey for construction of a new broad gauge line from Panchratna (Jogighopa) to Badarpur has been recently completed. The proposed line passes near to Tikrikila, Phulbari, Betasing and Tura (Garo Hills). As per the survey report, cost of construction of this 437 km long line has been assessed as Rs. 15894.04 crore with Rate of Return of minus 5.22%. The survey report is under examination.

Prevention of HIV-AIDS

*419. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of HIV and AIDS in the country and whether Government has got the correct statistics of HIV-AIDS affected and infected people, State-wise;

(b) what is the action plan of Government to prevent HIV and AIDS;

(c) whether Government is bringing a Special Legislation, which is drafted by NACO to protect the rights of the people living with HIV and AIDS; and

(d) the total fund spent through NACO for the prevention of HIV/AIDS?